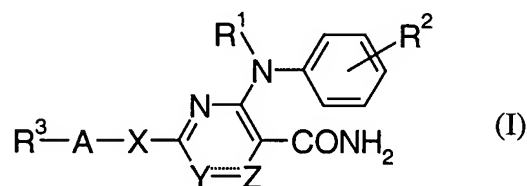


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A heterocyclecarboxamide derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, thereof.



~~{wherein the symbols in the formula have the following meanings.~~ meanings:

A: a lower alkylene which may have substituent(s), an arylene which may have substituent(s), a heteroarylene comprising a five to six-membered monocyclic group having from one to four hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, which may have substituent(s), or a cycloalkylene which may have substituent(s);

X: ~~NR⁴, CONR⁴, NR⁴CO, O, or S;~~

~~a dotted line between Y and Z: presence (Y=Z) or absence (Y-Z) of a bond;~~

~~Y-Z: N(R⁵)C(O), C(O)N(R⁵), N(R⁵)N(R⁵), or C(O)C(O);~~

Y=Z: ~~N=C(R⁶), C(R⁷)=N, N=N, or C(R⁷)=C(R⁷);~~

R¹, R⁴: H, a lower alkyl, -CO-lower alkyl, or -SO₂-lower alkyl;

R²: H, a lower alkyl, a halogen, a lower alkyl substituted by halogen(s), -O-lower alkyl,

-S-lower alkyl, -O-aryl, -O-lower alkylene-aryl, -S-lower alkylene-aryl, nitro, cyano, OCH₂O, or -(CH=CH-CH=CH)-;

R³: -CO₂H, -CO₂-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-CO₂H, -lower alkylene-CO₂-lower alkyl, -CONHOH, -CONHO-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-CONHOH, -lower alkylene-CONHO-lower alkyl, -NH₂, -(NH₂ in a prodrug form), -lower alkylene-NH₂, or -lower alkylene-(NH₂ in a prodrug form);

R⁵: ~~the same or different, H or a lower alkyl group;~~

R⁶: ~~a lower alkyl, -OH, -O lower alkyl, -O aryl which may have substituent(s), -O lower alkylene-aryl which may have substituent(s), -NR¹-aryl which may have substituent(s), -CO-lower alkyl, or -aryl group which may have substituent(s);~~

R⁷: ~~the same or different, H, a lower alkyl, -OH, -O-lower alkyl, -O-aryl which may have substituent(s), -O-lower alkylene-aryl which may have substituent(s), -NR¹-aryl which may have substituent(s), -CO-lower alkyl, or -aryl group which may have substituent(s).~~

~~or the same group as R⁶]~~

2. **(currently amended):** The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X is NR⁴ and A is a lower alkylene or cycloalkylene.

3. **(canceled):** ~~The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 2, wherein Y=Z is N=C(R⁶), C(R⁷)=N, or C(R⁷)=C(R⁷).~~

4. **(currently amended):** The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from ~~6-(2-aminoethylamino)-2-(3-ethylamino)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 6-(2-aminoethylamino)-2-(3-trifluoromethylamino)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 2-(2-aminoethylamino)-4-hydroxy-6-(3-~~

~~methylanilino)pyrimidine-5-carboxamide, 6-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-2-(3-methylanilino)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 6-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-2-(3,5-dimethylanilino)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3-methylanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3-methoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3-phenoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(4-methylsulfanylanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3,5-dimethoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 2-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-4-hydroxy-6-(3-methylanilino)pyrimidine-5-carboxamide, 2-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-4-(3-bromoanilino)-6-hydroxypyrimidine-5-carboxamide, and 2-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-4-(2-chlorophenoxy)-6-(3-methylanilino)pyrimidine-5-carboxamide.~~

5. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound according to claim 1 which is a Syk inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.